



## RTCA in Massachusetts

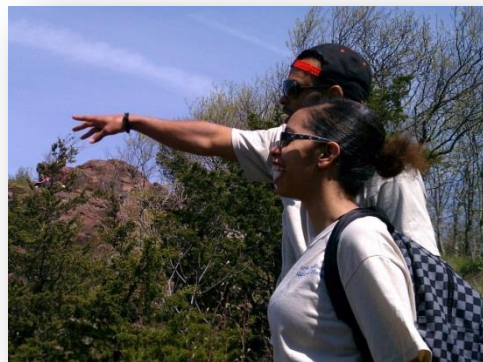
The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Massachusetts offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Massachusetts will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Groundwork: Lawrence** – The project goal is to make change through open space improvements, healthy food access, youth education, employment programs, and community events. Its Green Team youth focused on urban agriculture, stewardship and professional development. (Location: Lawrence, Massachusetts)
- **Groundwork: Somerville** – The project goal is to promote sustainable community development and revitalization by empowering local youth and residents. It focuses on urban agriculture and food security through work with South Street Farm and a mobile farmer's market. (Location: Somerville, Massachusetts)
- **Groundwork: SouthCoast** – The project goal is to open a program office in southeastern Massachusetts that will provide environmental youth and young adult programming to the community that is mutually beneficial to the cities. (Location: Fall River and New Bedford, Massachusetts)
- **Midstate Trail** – The project goal is to implement a trail protection strategy for the Midstate Trail in partnership with local and regional land trusts. (Location: Worcester County, Massachusetts)
- **New England National Scenic Trail** – The project goal is to provide the highest quality trail experience for all users of the New England National Scenic Trail. (Location: Massachusetts and Connecticut)
- **Western New England Greenway** – The project goal is to establish a 3-state bike touring route from New York City to Montreal, Canada. (Location: New York City, New York to Montreal, Canada)



Hikers on the New England National Scenic Trail

## Recent Success Story

**Finding Your Adventure! New England Trail College Network** – The New England National Scenic Trail's College Network is linking college students to trail recreation and stewardship. These students serve as ambassadors to encourage high school students in urban centers to connect with the trail.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca), or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Massachusetts contact:

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